

## RIGHTS OF ADOPTIVE PARENTS

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Adoptive parent(s) have the right to request and receive **non-identifying** background information from their child's finalized adoption record.

For adoptions finalized on or after **July 1, 1994**, the adoptive parent of a minor child may apply to the Virginia Department of Social Services for **identifying** information on the birth family, such as names and addresses. Good cause must be shown for the release of this information. Good cause means consent of the birth family member on whom the identifying information is being sought.

Adoptive parent (s) have the right to request that an attempt be made by the agency initially involved in the adoption, to convey critical medical, psychological and genetic information to the birth parents or adult birth siblings of the adoptee. However, a physician or licensed mental health provider must certify in writing, with a clear explanation as to the reasons, that it is critical that the information be conveyed. Confidentiality of all parties is to be maintained by the agency.

If the agency that was involved in the adoption is willing, the adoptive parent(s) may allow that agency to act as an intermediary for the purpose of exchanging pictures and non-identifying information, such as letters, with the birth parent(s). The adoptive parent(s) and birth parent(s) must both sign a written agreement to that effect.

<p>In <u>parental placement adoptions</u>, where the consent to the adoption was executed on or after <b>July 1, 1994</b>, the adoptive parent(s) may view the entire record.</p>
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